



Early Steps State Office Public Participation Process
for Proposed Policies and
Florida's FFY 2014 Renewal Application for Funds Under
Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



NOTE REVISED LINK FOR ONLINE MEETINGS

In order to meet the public participation requirements under §441 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) at 20 USC 1232d(b)(7)(B) and Part C of the IDEA at 34 CFR §303.208, the Early Steps State Office (ESSO), as lead agency for implementation of IDEA, Part C in Florida, is publishing proposed policies and the annual renewal application for funds under IDEA, Part C. In accordance with IDEA, Part C, the proposed policies and the application will be available for public review on http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/home/resources/es_policy/es_Policy.html, for at least 60 days beginning **February 10, 2014 through April 10, 2014**.

The opportunity for public comment on the proposed policies and the Part C application is available for 30 days beginning March 3, 2014 through April 1, 2014. Comments will be accepted from the general public, including parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities, providers of services, advocacy groups and organizations and other stakeholders in the state.

The purpose of the public participation period is to gather comments regarding the proposed policies and the annual Part C application for funds. The ESSO is interested in information that would assist us in maintaining a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers and their families.

Procedures for Submitting Comments on the Proposed Policies and the Application

A. Public Meetings to hear comments via webinar will be conducted on the following dates and times:

| | DATE/TIME | TOLL FREE NUMBER | PARTICIPANT PASSCODE |
|---|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Wednesday 3/26/14 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Eastern Time | 1 888 670 3525 | 6272156732 then # |
| | To join the online meeting, please go to NEW LINK AT: http://connectpro11164961.adobeconnect.com/r4v5mlq0rd0/ Log-in as a Guest | | |
| 2 | Thursday 3/27/14 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern Time | 1 888 670 3525 | 6272156732 then # |
| | To join the online meeting, please go to NEW LINK AT: http://connectpro11164961.adobeconnect.com/r4v5mlq0rd0/ Log-in as a Guest | | |

Any person requesting a hard copy of the application or proposed policies must contact Dawn Lynch at (850)245-4200 or send an e-mail request to CMS.EarlyStepsPublicComment@flhealth.gov no later than **February 28, 2014**.

- B. Comments may be submitted to CMS.EarlyStepsPublicComment@flhealth.gov
- C. Comments may be submitted to the Early Steps State Office via postal mail, commercial/express delivery, or hand delivery. Comments should indicate that they are concerning proposed policies or the Part C application. Address comments to:

Mailing Address:

Renee Jenkins
Florida Department of Health
Children's Medical Services
Early Steps State Office
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #A06
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1707

Express Mail/Hand Delivery Address:

Renee Jenkins
Florida Department of Health
Children's Medical Services
Early Steps State Office
2585 Merchants Row Boulevard, Room 220-F
Tallahassee, FL 32311-7829

The Early Steps State Office must receive your comments no later than April 1, 2014. Note that the Early Steps State Office will not accept comments by phone, fax or e-mail to ESSO staff. To ensure that your comments have the maximum effect in developing final policies, we urge you to identify clearly the specific section or sections of the proposed policy that each of your comments addresses and to arrange your comments in the same order as the proposed policies.

Responses to individual questions will not be provided; however, the ESSO will review and consider all comments and make any modifications deemed necessary to the policies. Policies must be approved by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs prior to adoption.